

ORIGINAL
(Rec)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

SUBJECT: Abex Superfund Site

DATE: 11/3/98

FROM: Randy Sturgeon, RPM
General Remedial Section (3HS23)



TO: David Wright, Section Chief
Site Assessment and CEPP Seciton (3HS33)

Attached is a letter which I received from Mr. (b) (6). Mr. (b) (6) is the (b) (6) at the Abex Superfund Site in Portsmouth, Virginia and was hired by the Washington Park Lead Committee (WPLC). Mr. (b) (6) has requested, on behalf of WPLC, that EPA investigate a list of 35 Abex (formerly American Brake Shoe Company) sites around the country for similar contamination (heavy metals) as has been found at the Abex site. The research that Mr. (b) (6) has performed indicates that the Abex locations conducted or may have conducted similar operations as were conducted at the NPL site potentially causing similar contamination problems and potentially may posing a threat to human health and the environment.

Some of the sites may have previously been investigated by EPA, but Mr. (b) (6) was not able to determine such.

I have sent a memo to Tom Sheckells, EPA Headquarters, regarding the sites outside of our Region. Bill Steuteville, EPA On-scene Coordinator, has previously referred the other Portsmouth location(s) to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. I am requesting that you address Mr. Eckel's request in regard to the Brake Shoe and Casting Division location at 2001-2045 Winchester Street, Baltimore, Maryland; the Southern Wheel Division location at 8th Avenue & Baldwin Street, Hays, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and the American Brakeblok Division location at P.O. Box 598, Winchester, Virginia. Please respond directly to Mr. (b) (6).

Please call me at 215-814-3227 with any questions you have regarding this issue.

cc: Peter Ludzia (3HS23)



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

DATE: 11/3/98

Kerita Kegler
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
5636 Southern Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Dear Ms. Kegler,

As you can see from the enclosed letter, EPA has received a request regarding a number of Abex (formerly American Brake Shoe Company) sites around the country for similar contamination (heavy metals) as has been found at the Abex site. One of these is the American Brake Shoe location near the corner of Lansing and Marshall Avenues. You, Bill Steuteville and myself visited this location late last summer. I understand that you are assessing the need for further environmental investigation at this location. Note that the information provided by Mr. (b) (6) shows two operations areas here.

I request that you notify Mr. (b) (6) and myself of the results of your assessment. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please call me at 215-814-3227.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Randy Sturgeon for RS".

Randy Sturgeon
Remedial Project Manager
General Remedial Section

cc: Peter Ludzia, EPA
Paul Kohler, VADEQ

ORIGINAL
(Reg)

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REGION III
1650 Arch Street
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Some of the sites may have previously been investigated by EPA, but Mr. (b) (6) was not able to determine such.

I have sent a memo to Tom Sheckells, EPA Headquarters, regarding the sites outside of our Region. Bill Steuteville, EPA On-scene Coordinator, has previously referred the other Portsmouth location(s) to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. I am requesting that you address Mr. (b) (6) request in regard to the Brake Shoe and Casting Division location at 2001-2045 Winchester Street, Baltimore, Maryland; the Southern Wheel Division location at 8th Avenue & Baldwin Street, Hays, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and the American Brakeblok Division location at P.O. Box 598, Winchester, Virginia. Please respond directly to Mr. (b) (6).


Please call me at 215-814-3227 with any questions you have regarding this issue.

cc: Peter Ludzia (3HS23)

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REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

SUBJECT: Abex Superfund Site

DATE: 11/3/98

FROM: Randy Sturgeon, RPM 
General Remedial Section (3HS23)

TO: Tom Sheckells, Director
Regions 3 & 8 Coordination Center

Attached is a letter which I received from Mr. (b) (6). Mr. (b) (6) is the (b) (6) at the Abex Superfund Site in Portsmouth, Virginia and was hired by the Washington Park Lead Committee (WPLC). Mr. (b) (6) has requested, on behalf of WPLC, that EPA investigate 35 Abex (formerly American Brake Shoe Company, see attached list) sites around the country for similar contamination (heavy metals) as has been found at the Abex site. The research that Mr. (b) (6) has performed indicates that the Abex locations conducted or may have conducted similar operations as were conducted at the NPL site potentially causing similar contamination problems and potentially posing a threat to human health and the environment.

Some of the sites may have been previously investigated by EPA, but Mr. (b) (6) was not able to determine such.

I am writing you because most of these sites are outside of Region 3. For those sites outside of Region 3, I request that you address Mr. (b) (6) request and respond directly to him.

Please call me at 215-814-3227 with any questions you have regarding this issue.

cc: Peter Ludzia (3HS23)

(b) (6)

ORIGINAL
(Reg)

September 15, 1998

Mr. Randy Sturgeon
U.S. EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Mr. Sturgeon,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the existence of a number of sites related to Abex Corporation. On behalf of the Washington Park Lead Committee, we request that these sites be listed as potential hazardous waste sites in the CERCLIS database. We also request that EPA investigate the sites listed here to determine if they are indeed contaminated, and therefore pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Some of the sites are located outside of EPA Region III. Please forward this information to the appropriate EPA regional authorities.

Sites in Portsmouth, Virginia.

There are two former Abex sites in Portsmouth other than the Abex Corporation NPL site. These were the American Brake Shoe and Foundry Co., Southern Wheel Division, located at Lansing Avenue and the Belt Line Railroad; and American Brake Shoe and Foundry Co., Brake Shoe and Castings Division, located at Lindsay Avenue and the Belt Line Railroad. A copy of a Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from October of 1943, clearly showing these two plants, is enclosed. We requested copies of any files that EPA Region III may have on these sites, by FOIA (request JRIN-1905-98), and were told that EPA has no information on them.

Like the Abex Corporation NPL site, these two plants were foundries. We expect that heavy-metal contamination will be found near them.

We request that EPA add these two sites to the Abex Corporation NPL site, and that EPA determine if the sites pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Other Sites.

Enclosed is a list of 35 Abex (American Brake Shoe Company) sites taken from the *Standard Metal Directory, 1950*. (Originals enclosed). Sites that did not appear in a search for "Abex" in the EPA FINDS database, accessed through the Right-to-Know Network on September 14, 1998, are listed below.

(b) (6)

Brake Shoe and Castings Division

2001-2045 Winchester St., Baltimore, MD
1673 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo, NY
1814 Grove St., Chattanooga, TN
950 Yuma St., Denver, CO
2620 Maury St., Houston, TX
1219 Main St., Melrose Park, IL
317 37th Avenue, Minneapolis, MN
1501 Macon St., North Kansas City, MO
239 Lenox St., Norwood, MA
750 N. Wheeling St., Toledo, OH
5309 E. Slauson Avenue, Los Angeles, CA
9933 107th Avenue, Portland, OR
Linden & Tanforan Aves., So. San Francisco, CA

American Manganese Steel Division

5805 Downey Rd., Los Angeles, CA

American Forge Division

109 N. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL
2621 S. Hoyne Avenue, Chicago, IL
1220 W. 119th St., Chicago, IL

Ramapo Ajax Division

2503 Blue Island Ave., Chicago, IL
280 Vulcan St., Buffalo, NY
10th & Washington Sts, Chicago Heights, IL
301 S. Main St., East St. Louis, IL
2700 Winter St., Superior, WI

National Bearing Division

5331 W. 66th St., Clearing, Chicago, IL
626 Armstrong Ave., St. Paul, MN

Kellog Division

97 Humboldt St., Rochester, NY

Engineered Castings Division

10 Mt. Read Blvd., Rochester, NY

Electro-Alloys Division

Taylor St. & Abbey Rd., Elyria, OH

Southern Wheel Division

600 Sixth Avenue, South, Birmingham, AL
Washington Ave. & Sacks St., Houston, TX
89 Barnum St., Rochester, NY
3300 N. Goodfellow Avenue, St. Louis, MO
Westwood & Hill Aves., Toledo, OH
8th Ave. & Baldwin St., Hays, Pittsburgh, PA

American Brakeblok Division

4600 Merritt Ave., Detroit, MI
P.O. Box 598, Winchester, VA


Again, we request that EPA investigate these sites to determine if they pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Yours truly,

(b) (6)

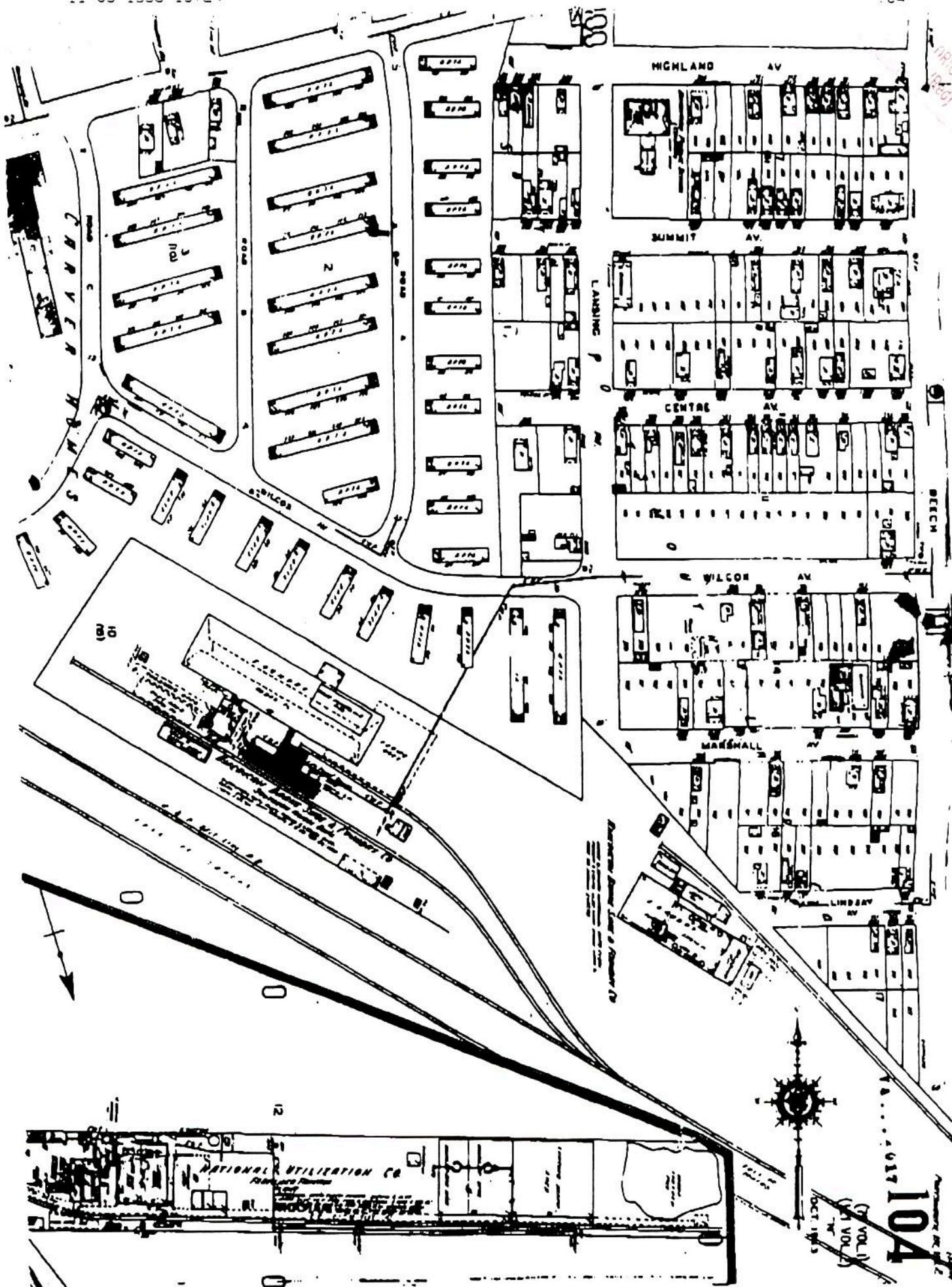


Cc: (b) (6)



Encl: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Portsmouth, Va., vol. 2, map 104, Oct. 1943
Standard Metal Directory, 1950, pp. 72-3, 76-9, 343.

ORIGINAL
(1969)



104

(VOL. 1)
(1969)

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

ORIGINAL
(R-03)

DATE: 11/3/98

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6),

I am writing in response to your letter dated 9/15/98 regarding a number of locations that are or were at one time associated with what is now the Pneumo Abex Corporation. For the purposes of responding to your letter, the locations fall in three general categories:

1. Locations outside of EPA Region 3 (Region 3 includes Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia);
2. Locations within EPA Region 3 that have previously been referred to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; and
3. Other locations within EPA Region 3.

I have forwarded your letter to the parties that can more adequately address your request. The enclosed attachments identify those parties. Further inquiry(ies) about your request should be directed to those parties.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please call me at 215-814-3227.

Sincerely,

Randy Sturgeon
Remedial Project Manager
General Remedial Section

cc: Dave Wright, EPA
Tom Sheckells, EPA
Dennis Abraham, EPA
Amelia Libertz, EPA
Vance Evans, EPA
Lisa Brown, EPA
Peter Ludzia, EPA
Kerita Kegler, VA DEQ
Paul Kohler, VA DEQ